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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 16, No. 1

Sesquicentennial Number

Winter, 1953

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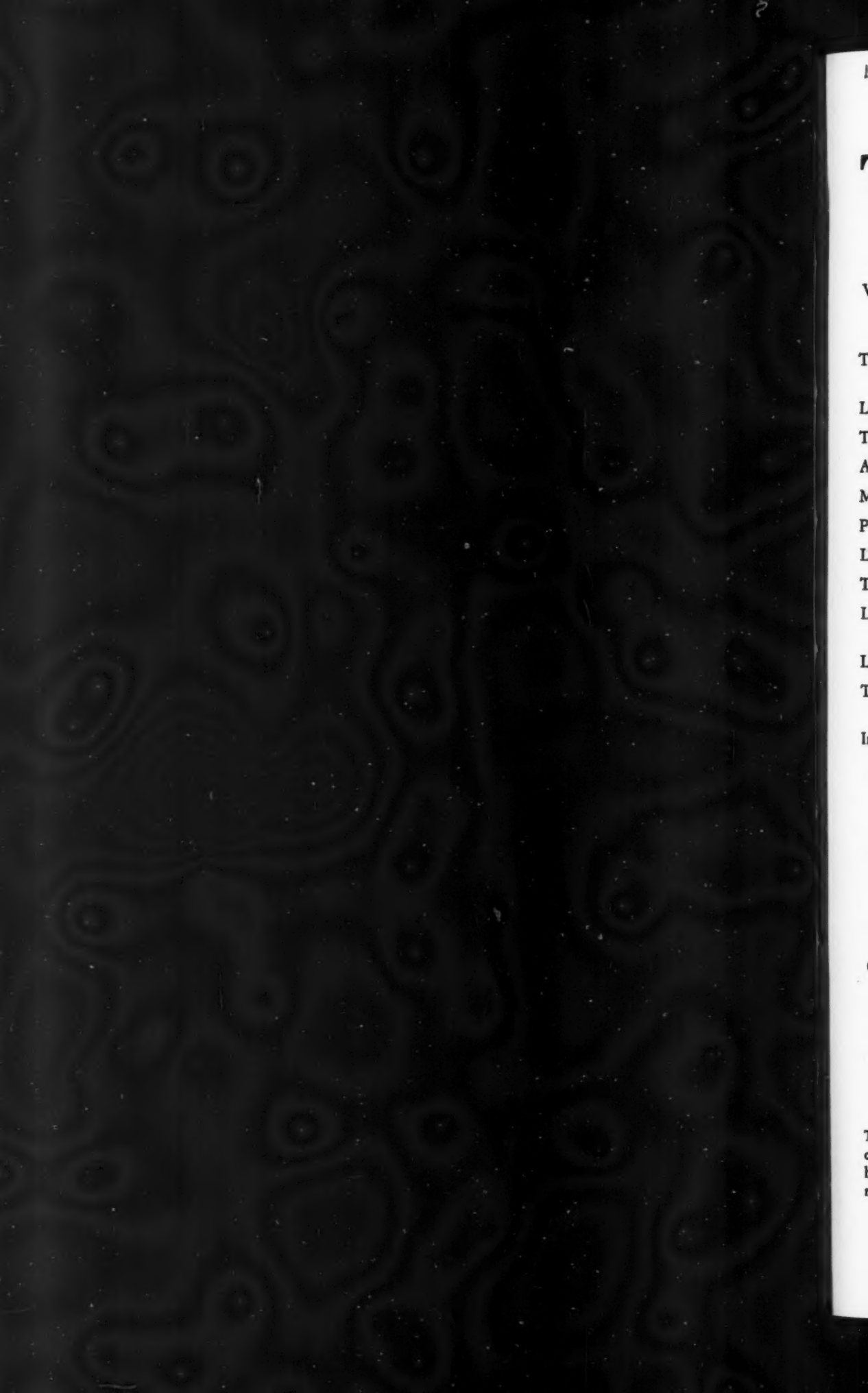
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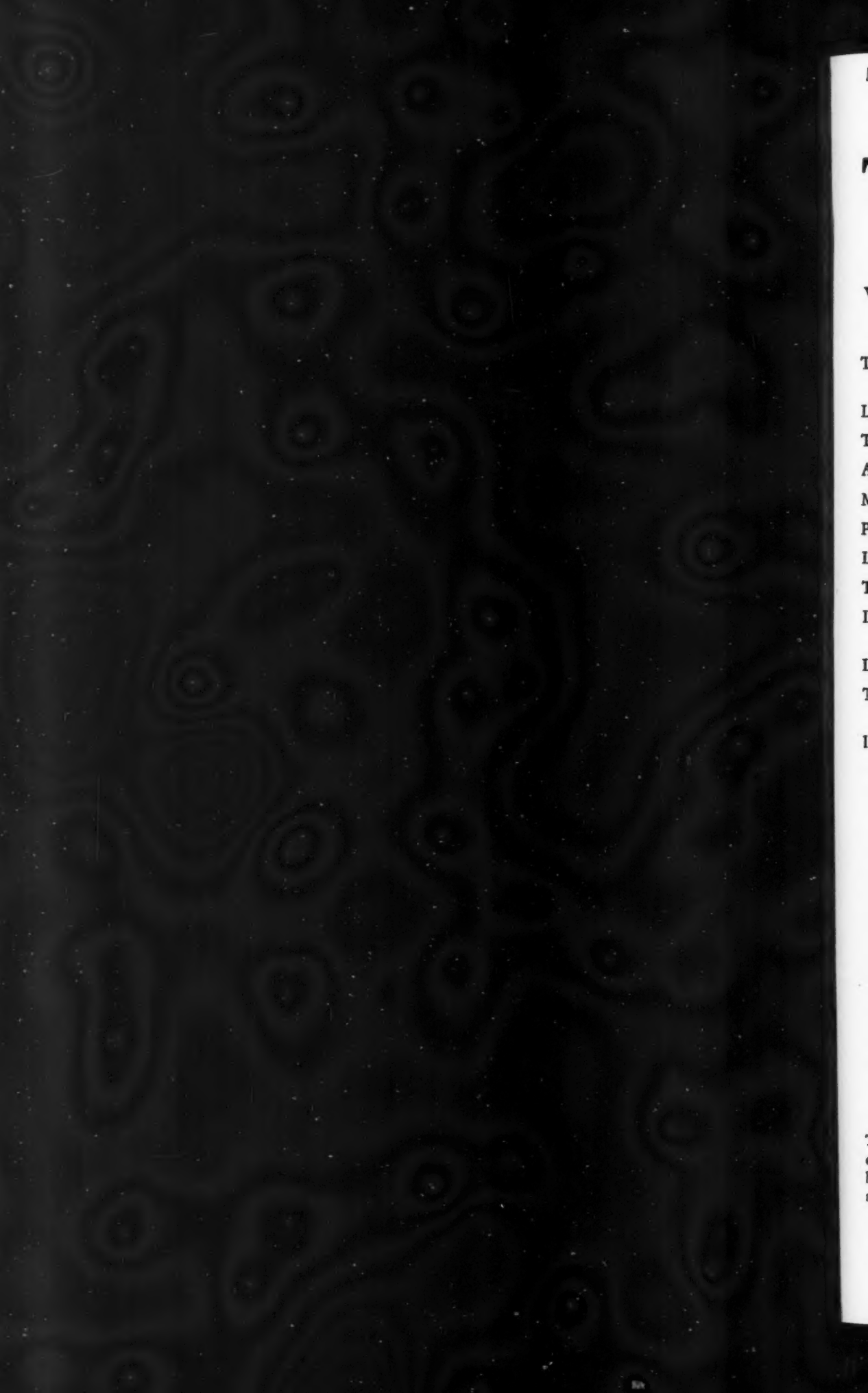
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The Burton Historical Collection and the 250th Birthday Festival

By

MRS. ELLEINE H. STONES, *Chief, Burton Historical Collection*

(Editor's Note: Believing that the experiences of the Detroit Public Library, gained from the celebration of the 250th birthday of Detroit, would be helpful to Louisiana librarians, I requested Mr. Ralph Ulveling to ask one of his staff to write an article for The BULLETIN. Mr. Ulveling graciously consented, and Mrs. Elleine H. Stones, Chief, Burton Historical Collection, presented the following article which is pregnant with suggestions. John Hall Jacobs, Editor.)

The impact of the observance of the 250th birthday of Detroit upon the Burton Historical Collection was felt as early as July, 1950, when firms and individuals began thinking of calendars, Christmas cards and advertising. The planning of the Newsboys' *Calendar* issued each year by the Detroit News was left to the Calvert Lithographing Company which decided to follow our suggestion that for 1951 it use reproductions in color of portraits of four outstanding persons in Detroit's history: Cadillac, Anthony Wayne, Lewis Cass and Stevens T. Mason. Mr. Berrien Eaton of the Eaton Chemical Company, with the help of his artist Mr. Rene Chambellan, began the research and planning for the bronze commemorative medallions, the official one for the Detroit Festival and one for the Eaton Company. The J. L. Hudson Company studied all of our material that would contribute anything towards achieving the proper costumes for a series of fine historical dioramas placed in the Hudson windows, later shown at the Michigan State Fair for 1951 and now installed in the Detroit Historical Museum. The research on Christmas cards was about evenly divided between individuals and firms.

With the arrival of 1951, the official committee for the Festival employed a technical director, Mr. Alfred Stern of New York,

who had organized the pageant and celebration for the Automotive Jubilee in 1946. He began extensive research on every phase of Detroit history and soon had crystallized his ideas for floats and employed an artist to make designs, incorporating such episodes as Pontiac's Conspiracy, the first Great Lakes Steamboat, Underground Railway, the Arsenal of Democracy in World War II, the Great Fire of 1805 and the Coming of the Automobile.

The next idea was to get the most likely combination between business firm and design—that is for the Cadillac Motor Company to assume responsibility for a Cadillac float, Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company to choose the coming of the first steamboat to represent it, etc. Once the assignment of subject was made, there were many questions from each firm, and much research in Burton by their representatives.

The many groups organized by the official committee each attempted some special observance. Church organizations held many of these. Ste. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, which dates from the founding of Detroit, held its colorful pontifical mass on July 26. Episcopalians gathered on Belle Isle one Sunday for an all day festival, and St. Paul's Cathedral arranged a display of documents and objects relating to the history of the Episcopal Church in Michigan. The Collection helped with this exhibit and with the booklet issued by Ste. Anne's Church in honor of its 250th birthday. The Women's Committee of the Festival staged a splendid pageant for which much research was done, "Courage was the Fashion." It is unfortunate that so instructive a presentation was given but the one time. The University of Detroit's spectacular production, "City of Freedom,"

sent many types of workers to use our material: Costume makers, scenery painters, producers and writers.

Local firms and industrial concerns asked for much help. The Detroit Edison Company wanted pictures of early street lights, a creamery was interested in the first cow brought here, the Chrysler Corporation wanted pictures of Detroit in the 1880's, the Ford Motor Company sent researchers to obtain materials for its historical movie, "Portrait of a City," the Manufacturer's Bank wanted photographs of the corner of Fort and Shelby Streets at different periods, and many other business organizations were concerned with similar problems.

The Detroit Trust Company accepted the suggestion of the Collection and re-issued the Rivardi map of Fort Lernoult in quantity. Several years ago it reproduced this map from the original in the William L. Clements Library at Ann Arbor, and on the reverse of the map printed the present street plan as it relates to the location of the fort.

The help of the Collection was acknowledged by all of those who used our materials, which gave us an unprecedented amount of publicity.

Leading all festival questions, however, were those on Cadillac: How he looked; what he wore; what flag he brought to Detroit; what coat-of-arms was rightfully his; who his living descendants are, if any (a vague report has come recently that one *does* live at Bordeaux in France); who came with him to Detroit (an important question since every French family in Detroit claims that some of its ancestors came with him); by what route he traveled here; what were the dimensions of the fort he built; when did Madame Cadillac arrive; what were the names of their children, and which of his grandchildren received confirmation of ownership of land granted to him in Maine?

Many projects of the City government were furthered by our efforts; the New Year's Day open house at City Hall for which a local advertising company designed decorations depicting the growth of Detroit; the exhibit prepared by the Water Board for the new Historical Museum; the history of Herman Kiefer Hospital, and the designing of the bases of the three flag poles placed above the entrance walk of the Historical Museum. For the Library itself, aid was sup-

plied to many branches for their special exhibits, some of them incorporating history of the area served, and research was done for the Director's annual Report, which is to be retrospective in tone this year.

For the paper on the antecedents of the Detroit Public Library, read by Dr. Lawrence Reynolds at a meeting of the Friends of the Detroit Public Library, the Collection supplied photographs and other material.

The staff of the department cooperated in the compilation of the chronology undertaken by the Library as a Birthday Festival project. This is soon to be published.

Considerable help was given by the Collection in the organization of the large show at the Detroit Institute of Arts, "The French in America," and many holdings were lent for the section on the French in Detroit.

Each elementary school and most high schools featured Detroit history in some way and work was done in Burton on such subjects as the State flag, the Mayors of Detroit; old fire department companies; home life in French Detroit; representative citizens through the years, and sports of early Detroit. Many were the scrapbooks compiled by students who besought us for material to clip. This, unfortunately, we were seldom able to supply.

In a special exhibit, the Burton Collection displayed souvenir items for which manufacturers had asked our suggestions: Playing cards with views of old Detroit on their reverse, historical dinner plates in blue and red; decorated glasses in which a creamery company sold cottage cheese and metal trays with views of Detroit in each corner were some of the attractive undertakings.

Our chief contribution probably was in giving aid to those authors whose works marked the Festival year, and we are especially pleased to note the high quality of these books: *This is Detroit*, by Milo M. Quaife, ed. by William White; *The Catholic Church in Detroit*, by Father George Pare; *Detroit; an Industrial Miracle*, by George W. Stark; *When Detroit was Young*, by the late C. M. Burton, ed. by Milo M. Quaife; a series of pamphlets on Detroit's history by various authors, under the auspices of the Festival's Education Committee; two mimeographed studies of the foreign population of Detroit done at Wayne University as contributions

of the Nationalities Committee of the 250th Birthday Festival.

We have helped materially in the research for a history of medicine in early Detroit, by Fanny J. Anderson, which will be published soon.

Among the many periodicals for which we supplied articles or illustrations, or both, were special festival issues of the *Detroit, Friends, Automobile Topics, Inside Michigan, the Dow Diamond, Michigan Bar Association Journal, Detroit Lawyer, Motor News, Michigan History* and *Time Magazine*.

We furnished material for numerous newspaper articles, such as those on Cadillac, on the French custom of celebrating New Year's Day, and on what to read to learn the history of Detroit.

Club women drew heavily upon our resources, too, and were most interested in por-

traying the lives and interests of Detroit women through the years.

Inquiries about the history of Detroit and the Birthday Festival came from all parts of the United States, and expressions of gratitude were received from many of these mail patrons.

Difficult questions arose now and then, for example: How to express the spirit of Madame Cadillac through a flower arrangement, or that of the late Mrs. Hazen S. Pingree; where to find a wooden Indian made by Julius Melchers; what graves in Elwood and Mount Elliott Cemeteries were most deserving of laurel wreaths; how to make a cake in the form of old Fort Pontchartrain; where to find the original painting used as a part of the design of the Cadillac Commemorative Stamp, and how to make a water ballet express the coming of Cadillac.

Altogether, it was a busy and rewarding year for this section of the Detroit Public Library.

Letters to the Editor

Winnfield, Louisiana
November 28, 1952

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

To discontinue the *LLA Bulletin* would be a step backward in Louisiana library development, I think.

Many excellent reasons were given for its continuance in the letters from Dr. Taylor and Mr. Postell. We want to add a few specific and local reasons. By local, we mean the parishes in which we work. Perhaps, some of these reasons would also apply in similar parishes.

1. The smaller, less populated parishes in which libraries are located receive a large part of library service from members of the staff who are not professionally trained but who are constantly receiving in-service training. We recommend, as a part of this training, the reading of professional publications. *LLA* is one of our main sources of keeping up with the library development and objectives in the state.

To give a specific and recent use of the *Bulletin*, the article by W. E. Groves, "Outline of Parish Employees Retirement System," was used at a meeting that was held

for the purpose of explaining this system. Although we heard many spoken words about the system, this was the first time that we had found anything in print that gave the facts in a clear concise way.

2. Often the non-professional members of our staff have not had the opportunity of knowing the leaders of library work in the state. However, when we attend the state meetings (and we always take as many members of staff as budget permits), a part of the preparation for the meetings consists of finding out something about the speakers and officials. *LLA Bulletin* is one of the sources that we use.

3. Employees from other states who come to Louisiana can get acquainted with the library picture through reading the *Bulletin*.

4. What could take the place of the very interesting "People and Places"?

Now that we have urged continuance of the *Bulletin*, we are remembering that you asked for suggestions of ways and means for meeting rising costs and also stated that some of the advertisers are not conscious of any business which results from advertising.

In checking the advertisers in the fall issue

we found that two of our libraries sent orders to several of these companies but in no instance did we mention that we saw the advertisement in the *Bulletin*. Wouldn't this help the advertisers to realize the worth of advertising in the *Bulletin*, if all libraries would mention this in sending in orders?

We hope that the *Bulletin* can be continued.

Sincerely,
RUBIE M. HANKS
Regional Librarian

December 3, 1952

Dear John Hall:

As a member of the Louisiana Library Association and an interested reader of each issue from cover to cover, I noted with concern the possibility of discontinuing THE BULLETIN.

I have found the various articles most enlightening, and the one "People and Places" edited by Lola Cooper, brings to memory, acquaintances and friends. These are librar-

ians who may not, in every instance, attend the annual convention and whose activities many would not know about except through this medium.

Mr. Editor, you ask for suggestions on the ways and means of meeting the rising costs. Instead of the proposal to consolidate THE BULLETIN with the SWLA News Letter, I suggest consideration of inviting the Mississippi Library Association to participate, making it the LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY BULLETIN (LMLB).

Another suggestion would be to increase the advertising rate on small advertisements by raising the cost of the $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ page spaces.

A third suggestion would be to secure more advertisers by soliciting all businesses that sell to libraries, asking them to contract advertisements on a yearly basis.

I hope you will find this letter constructive. Let's continue THE BULLETIN.

Cordially yours,
(sgd.) Dean Pierce

The Louisiana Purchase: A Diplomatic Enigma

By

J. PRESTON MOORE, *Associate Professor of History, L.S.U.*

Successful diplomacy is the result of persuasiveness, tact, patience, and a command of arguments. This is the normal conception of diplomatic procedure. This is what we have been taught to believe. Diplomacy is therefore an art rather than a science. John Quincy Adams, a celebrated practitioner of this art, declared: "I lament the want of genius, because I want a mighty agent for the service of my country." Surely the ideal conditions for the negotiating of international issues require a friendly, if not congenial, atmosphere and an abundant leisure at the disposal of the diplomatic agents for the setting forth of their respective cases. After weeks or even months of debate, with concessions begrudgingly made, the treaty or

convention is signed. It is assumed that all ambiguities and equivocations have been ironed out.

Yet diplomacy can and sometimes does function in other ways. Granted that these instances are exceptional, they nevertheless do occur. The negotiating of a treaty may be governed by a set of circumstances and motives, unforeseen and unpredictable, and may move to conclusions with a speed and unexpectedness that are startling. Instead of months of drawn-out, fine-spun contention, of haggling over *quid pro quo*, an agreement may be reached in the fantastically short period of a few weeks or even a few days. In addition, the terms may lack clarity and definiteness, which will bring on count-

less disputes and rival claims in the future. The results may be of great consequence for the life of the nation, spelling the gain or loss of a prize of incomparable worth.

The truth behind these latter observations highlights the diplomacy of the Louisiana Purchase the sesquicentennial of which is being celebrated this year. There have been few events more momentous in the annals of American statecraft; none was more unexpected nor wrapped in the cloak of mystery and uncertainty; none was fraught with greater danger for the life of the Republic; had it failed, it would probably have meant the establishment by a strong European state of a colonial empire around the Gulf of Mexico, which would have checked our advance and progress in this direction.

The story of this diplomacy begins around 1800 with the ambitions of the most dominant political personality in Europe—Napoleon Bonaparte. After winning victories over his continental enemies, the First Consul of France turned toward the New World, stirred by the thought of restoring his country to the rank of a great colonial power. The dream of rebuilding a French overseas empire, a reality down to the humiliating Treaty of Paris in 1763, was not original with him, but had been pursued, though with no success, by the government as early as 1792. As a man of action and decision, he resolved to see it materialize so that France would again have glory and prestige as a colonial power worthy of her rival England. The circumstances and the times seemed propitious. From her ally Spain, France had procured in 1795 the eastern half of the island of St. Domingo, which with her old colony of Haiti gave complete claim to the Caribbean island. Haiti was to be the focus of the new empire. With its sugar plantations it was the wealthiest of the French possessions until 1791 when an uprising of the negro slaves, affected by the doctrines of the French Revolution, ravaged the island and caused the death or departure of a majority of the French proprietors. In 1800 Toussaint L'Ouverture, one of the most remarkable men ever produced by the colored race, was at the head of the almost independent Negroes. To Napoleon, he represented a dangerous threat, to be removed as quickly as possible with the consequent res-

toration of French authority over the rebellious blacks.

Of more concern to us who are celebrating an historic occasion is the area of the mainland of North America, which was to be fitted into Napoleon's pattern for empire. The territory of Louisiana, once French, now belonged to Spain. The history of the region goes back to the latter part of the seventeenth century when LaSalle sailed from France in order to establish a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi and so eventually link French territories in the northern and southern parts of the continent. Although he failed in his attempt, French colonists eventually succeeded in the first quarter of the eighteenth century in effecting a settlement. Owing to climate and Indian attacks the colony was never very prosperous under French rule and at the end of the Seven Years War France bequeathed it to Spain as compensation for the loss of the Floridas to England. In Napoleon's imperial blueprint this vast region to the West of the Mississippi should constitute a granary, a source of raw materials, and a place for settlement. Haiti and Louisiana formed a complementary unit, the West Indian isle relying upon the continental area for food, lumber, and other supplies.

But would Spain sell or relinquish to France the territory that she had governed for the last thirty-seven years? The "retrocession" of Louisiana was the key to the grand design. Older scholarship has emphasized that Napoleon intimidated and threatened Spain so that she reluctantly consented. A more recent view, supported by ample evidence, affirms that Spain had no strong scruples against yielding her sovereignty provided that a fair exchange or compensation was given elsewhere. Louisiana had been a drain on Spanish finances with annual deficits. In the event of war with England the colony, protected by antiquated fortifications, might be easily captured. Moreover, Spain felt in no position to continue to assume the burden of defending the area against the growing pressure of American frontiersmen residing to the north. Accordingly, by the secret agreement of San Ildefonso, October 1, 1800, Spain "retroceded" Louisiana to France, getting in return the state of Tuscany in the Italian peninsula.

The treaty provided, further, that no transfer was to take place until six months after France had fulfilled her part of the bargain. A long delay now occurred, since Napoleon was unable to get the immediate consent of the other Italian states to the change of sovereignty. A year and a half later, to reassure Spain that he intended to keep his bargain, Bonaparte solemnly obligated himself not to allow Louisiana to fall into the hands of a Third Power.

If we can project ourselves back into the period at the beginning of the 1800s, in Jefferson's First Administration, we may readily understand American interests in Louisiana. Although the Revolution was hardly more than twenty years in the past, we had expanded well beyond the site of the original thirteen colonies. Courageous pioneers, braving Indian raids and other perils of the wilderness, had crossed the Appalachians into Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, where they cleared the forest and laid out farms for themselves. Commodities, like wheat, corn, and lumber, were soon being produced for shipment to the world market. There being no highways or roads to the east over the mountains, the Mississippi afforded the natural avenue for transportation. Without the use of the Mississippi there was no ready outlet for the products of the settlers. James Madison stated that "the Mississippi is to them everything. It is the Hudson, the Delaware, the Potomac, and all the navigable rivers of the Atlantic States, formed into one stream." To facilitate transportation for the Westerners, the American government had negotiated the Pinckney Treaty of 1795 with Spain, allowing navigation of the river through Spanish territory and the right of deposit of commodities at New Orleans while waiting for ocean-bound vessels. The arrangement, though temporary, was not unsatisfactory. But what if some other power than Spain got possession of New Orleans and refused us these rights? The refusal would jeopardize the prosperity of the Western region, blocking its settlement and forestalling expansion to the Gulf.

While disagreeable rumors were circulating in the United States to the effect that some secret agreement respecting Louisiana had been reached between France and Spain, nothing was definitely known until 1802.

On October 16th of that year the Spanish Intendant at New Orleans suspended the right of deposit, thus giving substance to the suspicion. From all quarters in the West there were cries of protest and anger against the act. What was worse it might anticipate another and more dire move on the part of Napoleon, the closing of the river itself to American commerce. One observer wrote: "The Kentuckymen have often wished for an opportunity of sacking New Orleans and the day may not be far distant." Such was the temper and reaction of the Western settlers.

In the capital Jefferson and his cabinet were mindful of the dangerous situation that was developing. It was in his words a grave threat, "the most important the United States have ever met since their independence." If the people of the West and the South, forming the bulwark of the Republican party, were alienated, his political career would be terminated by a victory of the Federalists whom he disliked intensely. From the standpoint of his personal convictions the news was distasteful and painful, for he had long been known as a friend of France. But if it were true, as all signs indicated, that Napoleon was bent on taking over the Mississippi valley, then he would be compelled to look on our former ally in a different light. Jefferson the Francophile might become Jefferson the Anglophile! In his own words, we must "marry ourselves to the British fleet."

Faced with this crisis the most sensible course of action was to seek to obtain from France the territory that we had absolute need of, that is of New Orleans and adjacent lands. In collaboration with Secretary of State Madison he conceived the idea of buying New Orleans and West Florida for \$10,000,000.00. To impress Napoleon with the seriousness of the proposal, he resorted to unusual diplomatic procedure, the dispatch of a special mission, comprising Robert Livingston, the regular minister to France, and James Monroe, a Virginian like Jefferson, a long time admirer of France and a landowner with extensive properties in the West. So in earnest was the President that if France refused to sell, our agents were authorized to cross the Channel and discuss with England the possibility of an alliance. Urging

Monroe to do his utmost, he warned that "on the event of this mission depend the future destinies of the Republic."

Meanwhile events in the West Indies and in Europe were turning in our favor. The heart of the colonial empire was the West Indian island ruled to all intents and purposes by Toussaint L'Ouverture. Seeking to destroy L'Ouverture's hold on the Negroes, Napoleon ordered to the West Indies his brother-in-law Le Clerc at the head of a veteran French army. But despite the capture of L'Ouverture, the Negro revolt could not be suppressed and yellow fever aided the cause of Negro independence by decimating the French ranks, including the commanding general. In despair Napoleon organized another expedition to the island, but a severe winter in Europe blocked the harbors with ice and prevented its departure. At the same time the prospect for a renewal of the war with England was looming up. Since 1801 there had been an uneasy truce between the two nations, but relations, already strained, were on the point of being severed and should war develop there would be little likelihood of preventing British seizure of the colony. These were the considerations that passed through Napoleon's mind and determined his decision. Assuredly, he had no love for the United States, although giving a preference to us over Spain, as he saw a means of creating opposition for England by strengthening the American state.

With the likelihood of war increasing daily, Napoleon decided to sell immediately. To do this was of course contrary to his pledged word to Spain, but it was well known that he kept no bargain unless it served his own interests. The proposal should be made at once, even before Monroe, then in France, could arrive in the capital. On April 11, 1803, the foreign minister Talleyrand inquired of the astonished Livingstone if he would like to buy all of Louisiana, meaning New Orleans and the territory west of the Mississippi. Upon Monroe's presence in Paris two days later, the hastily-begun negotiations continued and in the remarkably brief time of a week they were completed, the United States agreeing to give \$15,000,000.00 in cash and claims for Louisiana. By what authority could Monroe and Livingstone obligate the American

government to pay over this sum for a territory not specified in their instructions? They had bought New Orleans and the land west of the river when their instructions said New Orleans and the land east of the city. Realizing that time was of the essence—the slowness of communications with America would prolong the negotiations for months and Napoleon might change his mind—they signed the treaties on April 30, 1803. This is a date of the utmost significance for Louisianians, signifying as it does the legal authorization for the ultimate transfer.

While Monroe and Livingstone were congratulating themselves on their quick purchase, they were confused and perplexed over the limits and boundaries of the expanse that they had bought. Was there a better way of finding out than by inquiring of the seller? Livingstone therefore conferred with Talleyrand in order to obtain an answer to this question. It was a most unsatisfactory interview from the American angle:

"I (Livingston) asked the minister (Talleyrand) what were the east bounds of the territory ceded to us? He said that he did not know; we must take it as they had received it. I asked him how Spain meant to give them possession? He said . . . I do not know. Then you mean that we shall construe it our own way? I can give you no direction; you have made a noble bargain for yourselves, and I suppose that you will make the most of it."

Thus was concluded a strange, yet fabulous transaction, one without counterpart in American history. A solemn pledge on the one hand and carefully drawn instructions on the other were disregarded by the parties involved. Napoleon paid no attention to Spanish protests nor did Monroe and Livingstone seek guidance from Jefferson. Besides, the two Americans were ignorant as to the bounds of the territory they had contracted for. The peculiarities of this agreement have been wittily summed up. "Napoleon had no right to sell, we had no right to buy, and to boot we did not know what we had bought."

The enigmatic boundary issue lived on to plague both Madison and Monroe. The terms of the treaty defined the territory in this wise: "Louisiana with the Same extent

that it now has in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France possessed it; and such as it should be after the Treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States." It is difficult to conceive of a vaguer or more evasive definition. No wonder that it raised doubts and led to endless debate in the future. Actually the question uppermost in the minds of our plenipotentiaries could have been answered: What territory did France intend to occupy after her agreement with Spain in 1800? Had Talleyrand been perfectly frank with the American agents we would have then known the general limits of the region. But it was not to his interest to be candid and open, for he saw in this problem a source of potential controversy for the United States and Spain, all to the advantage of France.

From a study of the French archives we have learned that Napoleon's government understood by Louisiana the territory bounded on the east by the Mississippi, on the west by the Rio Grande up to the 30° north latitude and on the north by Canada. A partial claim to West Florida might have been made by an interpretation of the treaty, but the instructions issued by Napoleon to the French prefect in 1803 did not include this province. Hence, for practical purposes, the portion of the present state of Louisiana between the Mississippi and the Pearl, comprising the capital Baton Rouge, was not a part of the Purchase. There are facets of the boundary issues that are still the subject of argument.

Yet another problem presented itself in connection with the Louisiana territory. The Federal Constitution contained no provision for the annexation of territory. Being a strict constitutionalist Jefferson was of the opinion that an amendment would be needed in order to permit the acquisition. But in this instance, in view of the factional difficulties that might have arisen over its passage, he ignored the admonition of his conscience and authorized admission under a broad interpretation.

Memorable scenes in the wake of this diplomatic transaction occurred at New Orleans.

On November 30, 1803, in a formal ceremony the Spanish governor of Louisiana presented the keys of the city to the French representative Laussat. French occupation

lasted only twenty days. On December 20th the American commissioners, Governor Claiborne of Mississippi and General James Wilkinson, met with the prefect at the city hall to effect the transfer. In the square in front of the cabildo the American troops faced the militia companies of the city ordered up for the occasion. After a public reading of the credentials of the American commissioners, the powers of the French commissioner, and the articles of the Treaty, the prefect announced the cession of the province to the United States and turned over the keys of the fortifications to Governor Claiborne. As the commissioners mounted one of the balconies, the French flag flying from a staff in the middle of the square was lowered and the American flag hoisted in its place. On the same day Governor Claiborne issued a proclamation to the people of the region exhorting them "to be faithful and true in their allegiance to the United States, and obedient to the laws and authorities of the same, under full assurance that their just rights will be under the guardianship of the United States and will be maintained free from all force and violence from without or within."

What does the Louisiana Purchase mean to us? Although the limits of the territory remained a mystery, to be fixed only after lengthy negotiations with Spain and England, it represented beyond question one of the greatest victories ever won by American diplomacy. Its possession, marking the first annexation of land after the adoption of the Constitution, more than doubled the existing size of the struggling Republic, adding an area of matchless fertility and rich in fuel, power, and other resources. The price was cheap enough, a real-estate bargain from any angle, with 828,000 square miles costing only three cents an acre! "It impounded within American boundaries the great valley of the Mississippi which some say will be the terrestrial foundation of the English-speaking culture of future centuries." No one can well deny that Louisiana was a point of departure for further American expansion, to the Floridas, to the Southwest, and to the Northwest, and that in the long run it strengthened national unity and deepened our patriotism. Finally, when the Monroe Doctrine was promulgated, warning Europe

to keep hands off of the Western Hemisphere, the United States held sufficient territory to make its position seem safe and secure.

But let us not forget certain favorable factors in its acquisition. We should thank our lucky stars that Napoleon, heavily engaged in Europe, feared the consequences

of a renewal of the war with England, and that a population of ex-slaves in Haiti believed enough in the principles of "liberty" and "equality" to carry on a desperate resistance against France. Let us recognize as well the practical wisdom of James Monroe and Robert Livingstone who saw a good bargain and made the most of it.

A.L.A. Junior Members Invite Young Librarians to Join

To: Junior Members
Potential Junior Members
People I would like to see as Junior Members

Greetings:

The A.L.A. is a big organization and therefore the little librarian, particularly the young librarian, often feels left out. What he needs is a group within that large organization that he can feel he belongs to. The Junior Members Round Table is such a group. All members are the younger librarians and therefore are faced with the same problems. Join them and really get something from your A.L.A. membership. If you are new to the profession or like to be with librarians your own age, be sure and join the JMRT.

Unfortunately dues have to be paid to support any organization and this is the time of the year that those dues should be paid. As you all know the Junior Members Round Table is undertaking a tremendous task in trying to establish a Placement Service geared especially for the young librarian. This service will benefit all young librarians and is free of charge to all members of the Junior Members Round Table. Naturally, even

though the national officers work without pay, there are expenses and therefore we need dues from as many members as possible to make this venture a success.

Individual memberships are: .50 per year
Group membership 3.00 per year

Hoping to hear from all of you, I wish you a Happy New Year and also hope to get your dues promptly.

Anxiously waiting, I remain
Your Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. James M. Hillard,
Librarian
Curtis Memorial Library
Meriden, Connecticut

The Junior Members Round Table of the American Library Association has requested Editors of State Library publications to call attention to its free placement service. It seems that this free service consists of space in the Junior Members Newsletter, which is provided to all members of the Association. Doubtless the Junior Members of Louisiana Library Association will be interested in knowing about the work which the Round Table is doing in this as well as in other areas of librarianship.

Mrs. Ruth Bates Campbell

By

ELLIOT HARDAWAY

The library profession in Louisiana has suffered a great loss in the sudden death of Mrs. Ruth Bates Campbell, for the past sev-

enteen years curator of the Louisiana Room at Louisiana State University. Mrs. Campbell was one of the pioneer women teachers at

L.S.U.; in 1912 she became an assistant to Dr. Walter Fleming of the History Department and an assistant in the Library. During the following years she served the Library in many capacities, including four years as the first Reference Librarian. When the Louisiana Collection was started in 1935, she was chosen to organize and administer it.

Among her many achievements was the gathering and organizing of the impressive collection of pictures, maps, pamphlets and clippings in the Louisiana Room which is consulted by visitors from all over the state.

She was joint compiler with Mrs. Lizzie Carter McVoy of *A Bibliography of Fiction by Louisianians and on Louisiana Subjects*. L.L.A. members probably remember her best as editor of the *Louisiana in Print* column which appeared in the *L.L.A. Bulletin*.

Her loss to the profession is far more than just the loss of a faithful member. Her genuine love of people, her intense interest in her work, as well as her friendly and cheerful disposition endeared her to her colleagues and those whom she served. We will miss her.

People and Places

Edited by

LOLA COOPER

LaSalle Parish Library

Miss S. Metella Williams and Mrs. Florinell F. Morton of the L.S.U. Library School Faculty attended the Mexico City Conference of the Southwestern Library Association for which Mrs. Morton was Program Chairman. Mrs. Shirley Stephenson, Instructor, L.S.U. Library School was initiated into Kappa Delta Pi, honorary education fraternity on December 11, 1952. Mrs. Olin D. Moore, Librarian of Many High School, taught on the faculty of the L.S.U. Library School during the summer session. Yvonne Toups, Librarian of Francis T. Nicholls Junior College, taught on the faculty of the L.S.U. Library School during the summer session. Norris McClellan of the L.S.U. Library School faculty taught at the University of North Carolina Library School during June and July and then flew to Mexico City where she offered a course in Children's Books through the Mexico City College. Dr. Margaret Herdman spent the summer traveling in Mexico. Hugh Chisholm, a 1952 graduate, served as secretary of the Library School during the leave of absence of Mrs. Tossye L. Deer for June-August.

Mrs. Georgiana Greeson, Librarian of the North Arkansas Regional Library, and a 1951 graduate of L.S.U. Library School, was the recipient of the Mexico City College Library Scholarship, which is offered on a

rotating basis to graduates of library schools in the southwestern region.

Mrs. Doris Dantin, Librarian, L.S.U. College of Commerce, has a daughter, Susan Cornelia, born November 10, 1952. Mrs. Ruth Bates Campbell, Librarian of the Louisiana room at L.S.U., died November 22.

Ora G. Williams of the Northwestern State College Library presented a book review to the members of the Reader's Review Club at Winnfield, on November 19, in the Winn Parish Library. Elizabeth Williams, Librarian of the Shreveport Branch of the Northwestern State College Library, will be on leave of absence during the Spring semester while she is completing her Library Science degree at Texas State College for Women. Lucille Carnahan and Eugene Watson of the Northwestern staff attended the convention of the Southwestern Library Association in Mexico City. Mrs. Lena De-Grummond was chairman of the registration committee at the convention.

Miss Essae M. Culver, State Librarian, attended the Southeastern Library Association Convention October 30-31, and the Adult Education Regional Conference November 1, which were held in Atlanta, Georgia. Louisiana is now in the Southeastern section of the Adult Education Association of the United States. Miss Culver, Sallie Farrell,

and *Kathryn Adams* attended the meeting of the Southwestern Library Association held in Mexico City, November 24-30. Total registration for the Convention was 317; 200 of these were from the United States and 137 were from Mexico. The Louisiana group of thirty-six was the second largest represented at the meeting. *Miss Mary W. Harris* and *Vivian Cazayoux* of the *State Library* attended the regional meeting of parish librarians and assistants held in St. Joseph, November 7. *Miss Cazayoux*, who has recently returned from a three months' tour of Europe, spoke at the meeting about her trip which included visits to eleven countries. She has also spoken before other library groups about her trip.

The Modisette Award Citation for school Libraries was presented to the *Hall Summit High School Library* at the meeting of the Louisiana Association of School Libraries in New Orleans, November 25. *Mr. Shelby M. Jackson*, superintendent of the State Department of Education, presented the award to *Mrs. Leola H. Loftin*, Librarian. *Miss Mary Harris* represented the State Library at the meeting.

Dr. Joel Fletcher, president of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, and *Mr. James Love*, Hammond, have recently been appointed members of the Board of the *Louisiana State Library*.

Miss Debora Abramson, Assistant State Librarian, spent the month of December in California.

Mary Louise Giraud, Librarian, *Tensas Parish Library Demonstration*, was one of the participants on the program of the regional meeting of the Texas Library Association at Beaumont, October 18.

Miss Waltraut Bender, Librarian, Regensburg Branch, Bavarian State Library, Regensburg, Germany, *Miss Marga Boehmer-Plitt*, Librarian, Branch Library, Hamburg, *Mr. Herbert Fenske*, Head Librarian, Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg District Library and member of the staff, *Hamburg Public Library*, and *Mr. Herman Sauter*, Chief-Librarian, Pfälzische State Library, Speyer, Germany, who are visitors to this country under the United States Educational Exchange program are scheduled visitors at the *Louisiana State Library* January 5-8. These librarians are being brought to the United States by the Depart-

ment of State for short periods to exchange information with their colleagues, and to become better acquainted with our country, our people, and the way in which our democratic institutions operate.

The *LaSalle Parish Library Demonstration* opened October 25 with an "open house" at the headquarters and Jena Branch in Jena. The Olla Branch was opened at 8:00 P.M. that night and the Webb (Negro) Branch on October 26. *Mr. James Love* represented the *State Library Board*. Staff members from the *State Library* present were: *Miss Essae M. Culver*, *Miss Mary W. Harris*, *Miss Sallie Farrell*, *Miss Sarah Jones*, and *Miss Kathryn Adams*. Also attending the opening were librarians from the following parishes: *Rapides*, *Catahoula*, *Concordia*, *Richland*, *Tensas*, *Madison*, *Franklin*, and *Winn*. The *LaSalle Parish Library Demonstration* is under the direction of *Mrs. Rubie M. Hanks*, regional Librarian for *Winn*, *Catahoula* and *LaSalle*. The trained staff of the demonstration library includes: *Lola Cooper*, assistant librarian, and *Mrs. Shirley Wells*, bookmobile assistant.

Mr. Earl Gray of the Gerstenslager Company recently visited libraries throughout the state and the State Library to give librarians an opportunity to examine the Pioneer Bookmobile which is being manufactured by his company. Six students from two schools in East Baton Rouge Parish worked at the *Louisiana State Library* as part of the celebration of Librarian for a Day program. *Mrs. Nantelle Gittinger*, publicity assistant of the *State Library*, has returned to Baton Rouge after a three months' leave of absence. *Mrs. Lois Shortess* and *Miss Mary Harris* of the Extension Department of the *State Library*, attended the meeting of the Library Section of the Louisiana Education Association held in Alexandria November 24. Assistants from many of the Negro branches of the parish libraries were present as was *Mrs. Norma Humphrey*, librarian, *Negro Branch Library* of the *State Library*.

Miss Essae M. Culver reports that five successful tax elections for parish libraries were held in October and November. On October 27 the citizens of Iberville Parish voted a two mill tax for ten years to insure the continuance of the *Iberville Parish Library*. *Kay Werner* is librarian in Iberville. The other

four parishes voted renewal taxes. These were: *Livingston*, three mills for five years and *Evangeline*, one and one-half mills for ten years on October 20, *Bossier* six-tenths of a mill on October 27, and *Acadia* three-fourths of a mill on November 4.

The Board of Library Examiners—*Miss Debora Abramson*, *Mrs. Rubie Hanks*, and *Mr. John Hall Jacobs*—met in Baton Rouge November 14. Certificates were issued to: *Mrs. Marcia Perkins*, *Mrs. Celia Moore*, *Miss Mary Louise Giraud*, *Miss Ann Kirk-sieck*, *Miss Alma Lee Clark*, and *Mr. W. C. Bennett*. Recent visitors to the *Louisiana State Library* included *Miss Janice Kay*, Public Library Consultant, A.L.A., and *Miss Thayer* from *Knopf Co.* The State Library was one of the three state library agencies selected for study by *Mrs. Constanca de Jesus* of the *Philippine Islands*. *Mrs. de Jesus*, who was a recent visitor to Louisiana, was formerly Chief of the General Reference Division, Bureau of Public Libraries in the Philippines and is now attending the University of Chicago where she is working on an advanced degree. The other state agencies selected by *Mrs. de Jesus* for study were those of Wisconsin and North Carolina. Upon her return to the Philippines she will be head of Extension of the National Library, Manila, P. I.

Approximately one hundred parish librarians and assistants attended the two and one-half day work conference which was held at Pleasant Hall on the L.S.U. Campus, October 2-4. The meeting was sponsored by the L.S.U. Library School and the State Library. Besides members of the staffs of the sponsoring agencies, parish librarians and trustees, speakers at the conference included: *Harnett T. Kane*, Louisiana author; *Mr. W. E. Groves*, consulting actuary who spoke on parochial retirement; *Mr. Charles Dufour*, columnist; *Miss Joan Nichols*, architectural decorator and *Mr. R. C. Murrell*, Architect.

According to *Jeanne Pavy*, Librarian, *Vermilion Parish Library*, the new *Kaplan Branch Building* was opened at an informal program on Sunday, December 21st, at 3:00 P.M. The new building is a \$11,280.00 construction and was financed by the Town of Kaplan. It is of modern design, constructed of light brick; the woodwork on the outside is painted deep rose; the inside color

scheme is pale yellow and dark green. *Mrs. Ruth Broussard* is custodian of the Kaplan Branch with *Ravella Stella* assisting.

The *New Orleans Public Library* is the proud possessor of a new Gerstenslager Bookmobile. It was placed in service in September. Wedding bells have rung for three staff members. *Miss Betsy Gissel* is now *Mrs. Robert Dombourian*. *Miss Bernice Goodman* and *Mr. Robert Zibilich*, both of the Information Desk staff, were married Dec. 20. In November and December death came to three people who had contributed greatly to the *New Orleans Public Library*. On November 22, *Miss Anita Johnson*, librarian of the *Dryades Branch Library* and staff member since 1919, died. *Miss Johnson* was widely known not only as a librarian but also as an active worker for educational, civic and religious projects. On November 29, *Mr. Charles F. Buck, Jr.*, Chairman of the Library Board since 1936, died. In the resolution of the Library Board expressing appreciation and sympathy, *Mr. Buck* was cited as a "courageous leader, a tireless worker, a generous benefactor and a devoted friend," and the Board recognized "the unique service rendered to the *New Orleans Public Library* and to the community by *Charles F. Buck, Jr.*, in leading the campaign to reorganize the entire library system and to raise the library standards of New Orleans, this leadership resulting in doubling the total program of the *New Orleans Public Library*" as well as "the incalculable value of the contributions not only in New Orleans but also in this entire region." *Mr. James T. Germany* died suddenly on December 30, 1952. A member of the staff for the past 47 years, *Mr. Germany* had been in charge of the mending and repair program for the past 13 years. As a craftsman he had no superior, and his work won praise from numerous visitors to the Library. Recent travelers have included *Misses Ruth Renaud* and *Carmel Kuebel*, who attended the convention of *SWLA* in Mexico City, and Librarian *John Hall Jacobs*, who addressed the Commission Council of Dallas with regard to the location of the new Main Library for the Texas city. Librarians with location problems will note with interest that the Commission Council in Dallas accepted the proposal of the Survey and the Friends of the *Dallas Public*

Library to remain in the central commercial location presently occupied by the Library, rather than the proposal of the Planning and Zoning Commission to move the Library to a slum clearance area several blocks away. *Miss Duverne Konrick* has published a book of poetry, "Flames of Freedom." An inventory of periodicals, the first in the history of the Library, was completed in December. The library puppeteers — *Misses Helen Hart* and *Anna May McCurdy*—visited all agencies during the Christmas season, presenting their version of "The Night Before Christmas." Librarians from foreign countries are frequent visitors to the *New Orleans Public Library*. In recent months, Japan, France, Scotland, Philippine Islands, Venezuela, Germany and Sweden have all been represented.

The *Richland Parish Library* presented a total of 204 certificates during Book Week. This year, a different procedure was followed in which the Librarian, *Mrs. Lellah Lyle*, went to every school in the parish during Book Week where she talked to the school children on Book Week and reading. At this time the children were presented their reading certificates in the presence of all their classmates. The *Richland Parish Library* entered an exhibit in the Tri-Parish Fair (Catahoula-Franklin-Richland) on which a blue ribbon was won. The exhibit featured a model library with books, bulletin board, table, chairs, etc., carrying out the theme of our American Heritage. *Mrs. Lellah H. Lyle*, *Mrs. J. H. Walker* and *Miss Myrtis Cheek* of the *Richland Parish Library* attended the opening of the *LaSalle Parish Library* Demonstration in Jena.

New members of the staff of the *Shreve Memorial Library* include *Ruby Weaver*, Supervisor of City Branches, who received her M.S. from L.S.U. in June, 1952. She replaces *Martha Prommel* who is now in charge of Bookmobile service in Berax County, Texas. *Ethelyn Cousin*, after returning from a trip to Europe, assumed the duties of Reference Librarian replacing *Eleanor Hollis*, who is now at *Louisiana College* in Pineville. Many requests have been received for the account of the Louisiana Purchase, "Sold-To-America" compiled and written by *Bess Vaughan*, Librarian, including a request from International House that a copy

be sent to *Donald Culross Peattie* in California. *Nell Cunningham*, *Virginia Walker* and *Alma Lee Clark* attended the Southwestern Library Association convention in Mexico City.

Miss Ruby Tanner, formerly on the staff of the *Calcasieu Parish Library* is now *Mrs. Philip (Johnnie) Moser* of *LaJolla, California*. *Miss Helen Kendall* attended SLA in Mexico City.

Miss Marion Taylor, Librarian, and *Miss Flora Glenn Watkins* of the *Webster Parish Library* staff attended the Conference of the Southwestern Library Association in Mexico City, and remained over for a few days of interesting tours both within the city and outlying districts. *Miss Taylor* also presided at the Public Library Section of the Conference.

Mrs. B. W. Biedenbarn, Chairman of the Board of Control and *Miss Frances Flanders*, Librarian, *Ouachita Public Library*, *Monroe*, attended the meeting of SLA in Mexico City. The *Ouachita Parish Public Library* has recently installed a microfilm reader and a number of magazines on microfilm. Through the generosity of friends the 1850 census of Louisiana has been ordered and the 1880 census will be ordered soon. The census records also in microfilm, will be very useful to all people in North Louisiana interested in genealogy. New staff members at the *Ouachita Parish Public Library* are *Mrs. Eleanor Polk*, graduate in Library Science of the University of Kentucky, *Mrs. Kay Curty*, graduate of the University of North Carolina, *Mrs. D. C. Brothers*, graduate of Louisiana Tech, and *Miss Alice O'Kelly*, who attended Mississippi Southern College.

The Board of Control of *Pointe Coupee Parish Library* appointed *Mrs. Fay Bonaventure* as Bookmobile Assistant. *Pointe Coupee* is the proud possessor of a new Bookmobile which was given to them by the Police Jury.

Miss Elizabeth Cammack, Librarian, *Iberia Parish Library*, attended SWLA in Mexico City. Over 200 people attended the open house held in the new *Jeanerette Library* building on October 18th. This new branch of the *Iberia Parish Library* is of brick and glass and will house about 9,000 books.

Mrs. Lou Venia G. Jones, Librarian, *Morehouse Parish Library*, *Bastrop*, attended

SWLA in Mexico City. Mrs. Inez Craven is a new member of the staff.

Poplas Branch of Washington Parish Library moved into more attractive quarters on December 15 in *Bogalusa*. The new building was constructed by one of Bogalusa's leading Negro citizens, Dr. L. M. Verdun. Mrs. Norma Humphrey of the Louisiana State Library, Southern Branch, was present for the opening and dedication program. Helen Dykes, *Washington Parish Library*, resigned, effective December 31, 1952, to be married to the Rev. James C. Peck of Beaumont, Texas, and Lafayette, La., on January 24, 1953, in Bogalusa. Mrs. Martin T. Lord (Mary Helen James) of Bogalusa has been appointed acting librarian to succeed Miss Dykes.

New library assistants at the *East Baton Rouge Parish Library* are Mrs. Gladys McGeehee and Mrs. Winnie Cason Smith, assistant in the catalog dept. Among the interesting exhibits at *East Baton Rouge Parish Library* was one of souvenirs sent by Lt. Charles Hill, who was stationed in Korea. He had sent two beautiful vases as gifts to the library, which were the inspiration for the exhibit. According to Mrs. Tillie Schenker, Librarian, the Library was beautifully decorated for the holidays and had two interesting cases—one of the spirit of Christmas and one of Christmas cards from 1903 to 1915, supplied by one of the borrowers.

As a book week feature, the *Madison Parish Library* had children take turns as live models in a local store window, which was decorated with Book Week streamers, poster, book jackets, dolls loaned by a little girl, toy animals, and a number of children's books, which the children read or showed to passers-by. Beginning the Saturday before Book Week, quite a number of children were used during the two Saturdays and

each afternoon after school on the school days. Mary Moore Mitchell, Librarian, reports that the response was most enthusiastic. On November 20, the library had a book review and tea in honor of the State Library reading certificate winners. On November 18, six high school students served as Librarian for a day. The *Madison Parish Library* is beginning a winter reading Club for the children, with the theme, Reading Is Fun. Each one is given a mimeographed booklet with books (mostly non-fiction) listed on a number of different subjects, and each is required to read ten books on at least five different subjects.

On Friday, November 7, Librarians and staff members from eight parishes in Northeast Louisiana, met in the Community House at *St. Joseph*. Invitations were extended to the ten parish libraries in the area, but two Parishes could not be represented: Morehouse and Richland. The eight Parishes present for the meeting included: *Concordia*, *Cataboula*, *LaSalle*, *Winn*, *Franklin*, *Ouachita*, *Madison*, and *Tensas*. There were visitors from the *Louisiana State Library*: Miss Mary Harris and Miss Vivian Cazayoux; from *East Baton Rouge Parish Library*, Mrs. Tillie Schenker, and from the *Philippine Islands*, Mrs. Constanca de Jesus. The morning session was given over to an informal discussion of Bookmobile Service: requests, overdues, publicity, number of staff, service to schools, individual stops versus community stops, book collection, displays. After lunch, served in the Community House, Mrs. Schenker spoke to the group on "Personalizing Library Service." Miss Cazayoux spoke briefly on the Film Department of the State Library, and then told the group of her recent trip to Europe. Mrs. de Jesus told of plans for extending library service throughout the 7000 islands of the Philippines.

Louisiana in Mexico

By

RUTH RENAUD, Head

Adult Department, New Orleans Public Library

After a week in Mexico you too would sound like a travel folder extolling its praises—the snow capped mountains, the

blue, blue skies, the gorgeous flowers, the native music, the bullfights, and the perfect weather. I'm sure all of the thirty-six Lou-

isiana librarians who attended the recent Southwestern Library Association meeting in Mexico City agree with this—and add their own adjectives. At the Editor's suggestion, I have jotted down a few "extra curricula" notes and impressions—perhaps they'll bring happy memories to some, and the urge to travel to many others! And the professionally minded will please note—the official proceedings of the convention have no relationship to this report—they will be made available later!

Louisiana librarians traveled to Mexico by bus, automobile, train and plane. I was one of the fortunate ones to go by plane. It was my first experience flying, and it was a thrill in many ways. On the same plane from New Orleans were five librarians from Jefferson Parish: Cleo Songy, Celia Moore, Betty Sisson, Betty Mailhes and Charles Daniel. I sat with Celia Moore the entire trip and felt quite lucky. She had not only flown before but had also visited Mexico, and she was able to give me many good pointers.

Some of the Louisiana librarians were able to add a few extra days of their own in Mexico. My five days there did not allow for any of the interesting overnight trips, but I was able, in addition to attending meetings, to take in the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco, the Pyramids, the Shrine of Guadalupe, the Bullfights, and Taxco. Though Taxco is listed last, for me, it was the high spot of Mexico. Each one is so unique and different, it is impossible to describe—Mexico *definitely* must be seen and experienced to be appreciated!

There were many social events planned for the delegates. One of the outstanding events was the party held in the American Embassy garden. The staff of the Benjamin Franklin Library was host to the convention delegates. The typical Mexican food and drinks served were wonderful, as was the entertainment—folk songs, folk dances, and a presentation of regional costumes, most interestingly described. A pinata, hanging from one of the trees, was broken at the end of this most enjoyable evening.

The Remington Rand buffet party was another gala occasion for getting acquainted. Again the delicious food and drink and

music added to the enjoyment of the affair. It was the occasion for seeing and chatting with many of the Louisiana librarians not seen before during the convention—such people as: Lucille Carnahan, Ovelia Carlisle, Jean Royston, Kay Werner, Joyce Werner, Helen Levy and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Dossat.

I enjoyed especially sharing trips and seeing the sights with fellow Orleanians Celia Moore, Carmel Kuebel and Mina Lea Sinske—a grand way to get to really know some of the librarians from your own city. Metella Williams, our Baton Rouge friend, was with us on quite a few trips. As most Louisiana librarians know, she is wonderful company and a real good sport on all occasions.

The coming inauguration of the new president of Mexico added color and excitement to our visit, and the hotel decorations and the visiting notables brought the world to the Del Prado lobby. The attempt to hold a "Henriquista" meeting on the Paseo de la Reforma one evening gave the convention delegates some additional excitement. The entire length of the Paseo was cut off from automobile traffic and police stood guard on street intersections. The traffic situation caused many to arrive late at the Garden Party—but during the evening everything returned to normal.

The churches in Mexico are most impressive. I thought in New Orleans we had beautiful and ornate ones—but in Mexico they are unbelievably breathtaking. Mexico City is an interesting combination of the old and the new. The modern apartment buildings are spectacular, and University City, now in progress, will be really wonderful when completed.

Florinell Morton was a busy person with her many responsibilities as Program Chairman. However, she was able to take in some of the sights, and she was on the same boat with us Sunday morning at the Floating Gardens. Mrs. Morton was one of the three librarians presented a scroll and medal by Lieutenant-Governor Gomez. They were designated as "distinguished visitors to the city and nation." The other two librarians honored were Mr. Edmon Low, President of the Association, and Miss Alice Dugas of Mexico City College, for her efforts in bringing the convention to Mexico.

Lena de Grummond was another busy Louisiana librarian, and her duties as Chairman of the Registration Committee kept her pretty close to the Social Security Building, where all meetings and registration took place. However, we managed to have dinner together one night along with our incomparable Alice Dugas. We enjoyed a fine meal at Paoli's—one of the many superb restaurants of Mexico City.

The food was delicious in Mexico, and reasonable by our standards. However, with our busy schedules it seemed impossible to fit in more than two meals a day. We were nearly always ready for a midnight snack after meetings, and usually found ourselves, along with many other librarians, in the Del Prado's Sanborns before turning in and calling it a day.

The first meeting of librarians from the United States and Mexico, held south of the border, was considered a success by all in attendance. The Mexico City "News" of November 29th stated after the last general session, "The fourth and final general session of the Southwestern Library Association closed the three day conference last night and forged more firmly the international bonds of library science."

To North Americans, the many Mexican touches were heart-warming. For example, the elevator boys immediately learned the names of the librarians—but, at the same time, gave the impression that they didn't bother to learn the names of everybody! Needless to say, comparisons with others proved that they did—a tribute to the well-known Latin American charm. The hotel maids have a delightful habit of bringing fresh gardenias to the rooms—and clerks in shops made us feel like visiting royalty. And most librarians seemed to feel that the tour guides combined a wealth of information with that friendly informality of manner guaranteed to please.

My short stay in Mexico has not satisfied me—it has only served as a "taste." Most of those who were lucky enough to go this time probably feel as I do—that I must return very soon and see some of the places again and see others missed this trip. And many of us will hope that the American Li-

brary Association will decide to meet in Mexico City in 1954—or just as soon as possible!

The thirty-six Louisiana librarians in attendance are listed below:

Adams, Kathryn—Baton Rouge
Biedenhern, Mrs. B. W.—Monroe
Cammack, Elizabeth—New Iberia
Carlisle, Ovelia—Pioneer
Carnahan, Lucille—Natchitoches
Clark, Alma Lee—Shreveport
Culver, Essae M.—Baton Rouge
Cunningham, Nell—Shreveport
Daniel, Charles—New Orleans
de Grummond, Lena—Baton Rouge
Dossat, Joseph B.—New Orleans
Farrell, Sallie—Baton Rouge
Ferguson, George Rose—DeRidder
Flanders, Frances—Monroe
Fort, Hazel—New Orleans
Fort, Marie—New Orleans
Jones, Lou Venia G.—Bastrop
Kendall, Helen—Lake Charles
Knighten, Loma—Lafayette
Kuebel, Carmel—New Orleans
Mailhes, Betty—New Orleans
Moore, Celia—New Orleans
Morton, Florrinell—Baton Rouge
Renaud, Ruth—New Orleans
Royston, Jean—Natchitoches
Sisson, Betty—New Orleans
Songy, Cleo—New Orleans
Sinske, Mina Lea—New Orleans
Taylor, Marion—Minden
Walker, Virginia—Shreveport
Watkins, Flora Glenn—Minden
Watson, Eugene P.—Natchitoches
Werner, Joyce—Baton Rouge
Werner, Kay—Plaquemine
Whitman, Merle—Alexandria
Williams, S. Metella—Baton Rouge

The Louisiana State Library

By

ESSAE M. CULVER

The following paragraphs are excerpts from the paper of Mrs. A. G. Reed, former president of the Louisiana Federated Women's Clubs and member of the Louisiana Library Commission from 1920-1940 entitled "Early History of the Library Movement in Louisiana":

The story of the beginning of state library work in Louisiana is told in the minutes of the Louisiana Library Association organized in 1909.

There were at that time in the state a few, so-called, public libraries operated by subscriptions; the Jennings Library, which was a Carnegie institution; the New Orleans Public Library, inadequately supported by public funds; and the school and college libraries. Without going into the investigation that would be necessary to give the status of these early libraries, I have undertaken to sketch briefly the growth of the library idea, which, from the vision and devotion of a few enthusiastic persons, resulted in the establishment of the Louisiana Library Commission and the eventual enlargement of the library program.

A group known as the New Orleans Library Club, in November, 1909 sent out a call for the organization of a Louisiana Library Association. A meeting was held in December at Tulane University at which the principal speaker was Mr. Chalmers Hadley of the American Library Association. There were twelve libraries and four organizations represented, and among those who took part in the meeting were Miss Helen Dodd of Tulane University Library, New Orleans; Miss Inez Mortland, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; Miss Virginia Fairfax, New Orleans; Miss Louise Krause, New Orleans; Mr. Henry Gill, New Orleans Public Library; Mr. Wm. Beer, Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans; Mr. H. H. White, Alexandria; Mr. George Hathaway, Jennings.

At the next meeting of the Library Association, held in Donaldsonville, May, 1913, Mr. Beer reported that he had prepared

about 500 or 600 books for circulation, of which some 350 had been purchased by a donation from Mrs. Annie Howard Parrott, founder of the Howard Memorial Library.

Mr. Beer had tried to arouse an interest for the loan of these libraries through the schools. They were boxed in collections of fifty, were well chosen for what he termed "this gladsomely interesting adventure"; and he reported sending out fifteen cases, which were only lukewarmly welcomed by the recipients. Only one school requested a second shipment. Some did not even acknowledge the receipt of the books and to these Mr. Beer wrote "a somewhat indignant letter." The Association, after hearing Mr. Beer's report, concluded that such service could only be operated by a state agency.

Miss Dodd, who had investigated county library work in Van Wert County, Ohio, reported that: "County Libraries are the only libraries that can get books among all the people. This, the first real county library in the country, being now in its thirteenth year, has demonstrated that beyond the shadow of a doubt . . . what you need is a State Library Commission."

I have gone into the early work of the Library Association because it is interesting and, I think, important to know that this group was thinking and talking along the lines that we believe to be correct after the lapse of twenty-five years.

Before the date of the next biennial meeting of the Association, war had broken out in Europe and the Association was dormant for ten years.

The traveling libraries started by Mr. Beer planted an idea which was kept alive by the women's clubs, and in 1915, Mrs. John D. Wilkinson, then President of the Louisiana Federation of Women's Clubs, appointed Mrs. D. D. Daggett of Jennings to work out a traveling library program. Mrs. Daggett took a very active interest in the project. She secured donations for the purchase of books from individuals and clubs. She went to New Orleans and secured

from Mr. Beer the collections he had in his charge. She had boxes made for the shipment of books and soon had the libraries traveling. She reported a change in the attitude of those favored with loans. Nearly all were prompt to acknowledge the receipt of the books and to return the boxes and to ask for a second shipment. She had more requests for books than she could respond to. This is significant because it shows the increasing interest in reading.

During the World War the American Library Association had made large contributions of books to various Army camps and had placed trained workers in strategic points to supervise the camp libraries. At the close of the war the camp libraries were to be broken up. At Camp Beauregard, in Alexandria, there was a collection of about 3,000 miscellaneous volumes. Miss Louise Singley, A. L. A. representative, conferred with Mrs. A. F. Storm, then President of the Louisiana Federation of Women's Clubs, and offered these books to any state agency that would form a set-up to care for them. Upon Miss Singley's advice and with her help, Mrs. Storm started a movement for the establishment of a State Library Commission.

It would take too long to tell the whole story of the passage of the Louisiana Library Commission Law in the legislative session of 1920. Mrs. Storm spent most of the session in Baton Rouge. Mrs. John D. Wilkinson of Shreveport, Mrs. Joseph E. Friend of New Orleans, Mrs. D. D. Daggett of Jennings, Miss Katherine Hill of Baton Rouge, and Mrs. Storm all contributed to a fund to pay the expenses of the campaign. Miss Elizabeth West of the Texas State Library came to Baton Rouge and appeared before the Education Committee of the House of Representatives in behalf of the Bill. Mr. Scott Wilkinson of Caddo Parish introduced the bill in the house, and Senator Ventress Smith of St. Mary Parish introduced it in the Senate, by request.

The bill provided, among other things, for the appointment of a Commission of five members, two of them women; the employment of an executive secretary, who must be a trained and experienced librarian; and an appropriation of \$5000 for the work. The bill was reported unfavorably by the Education Committee of the House, but Mrs.

Storm secured a minority report which brought it before the House for consideration. She was advised that the bill could not pass with the appropriation clause and it was withdrawn and again submitted, without the appropriation, by Mr. J. H. Heinen of Jefferson Davis Parish. In this form it passed both houses. Mrs. Lydia Wickliffe Holmes was one of those who assisted materially in securing the passage of the bill.

After the adjournment of the legislature, Mrs. Storm called upon Governor John M. Parker and suggested the names of five persons to be appointed on the Commission. They were: Rabbi David Fichman, New Orleans; Professor R. W. Hayes of Tulane University, New Orleans; Mrs. D. D. Daggett, Jennings; Miss Katherine Hill and Mrs. A. G. Reed, Baton Rouge. Commissions were issued by Governor Parker to all five. A meeting was held in New Orleans attended by Miss Hill, Mr. Hayes, and Dr. Fichman at which Dr. Fichman was elected Chairman of the Commission and Miss Hill Secretary-Treasurer. Of course as there was no money for several years the members of the Commission paid their own expenses when they attended meetings.

The American Library Association shipped the 3,000 books from Camp Beauregard to Baton Rouge and the two local members of the Commission were confronted with an assignment of over thirty boxes of books and a freight bill of over \$30. At this point Miss Hill and Mrs. Reed interviewed President T. D. Boyd at Louisiana State University and he quite willingly assigned storage space for the books in the Hill Memorial Library, and when the books were delivered paid the bill for freight and drayage. If he expected to collect the amount at some future time, he never attempted to do so. The bill was never presented to the Commission.

At the next legislative session in 1922 an effort was made to secure an appropriation to enable the Commission to function. Mrs. Storm, Mrs. Reed, and Dr. Fichman met in New Orleans to plan an appeal to the legislature. Dr. Fichman, assisted by Professor Hayes, was to approach the New Orleans representatives. Miss Hill and Mrs. Reed were to go to the legislature in Baton Rouge. Mrs. Daggett was ill at the time and had a young child who was also not well.

The appropriation asked for was \$5000, but after repeated discouragements was reduced to \$1000. The appropriation was denied by the House, but was added by the Senate to the House bill, passed by both Houses and was signed by Lieutenant-Governor Bouanchaud in the absence of Governor Parker from the state.

Armed with \$1000, Miss Hill and Mrs. Reed unpacked and shelved the books from Camp Beauregard which were now augmented by a few hundred that had arrived from Mrs. Daggett's traveling libraries. The services of Mrs. Owen Brown, a trained cataloger, were secured. She brought necessary supplies, record books, typewriter, library cards, and worked through the summer of 1922 classifying the collection.

The money was now spent and the members of the Commission were discouraged. Dr. Fichman was too occupied with the duties of his profession to give much time; Professor Hayes had left the state; Mrs. Daggett was still immersed in family cares. Miss Hill and Mrs. Reed resolved to resign and Miss Hill wrote to Governor Henry Fuqua to that effect. Her resignation had not been acted upon when a miracle happened.

Mr. Milton Ferguson of California, President of the League of Library Commissions, arrived in New Orleans in March, 1925 with money to spend in library development in the South. The money was a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and Mr. Ferguson's attention had been directed to Louisiana by Dr. G. P. Wyckoff of the Tulane University faculty.

The fact that Louisiana had already a fairly good library law and an organized Library Commission through which the League could act attracted Mr. Ferguson's favorable attention. Dr. Wyckoff put him in touch with Mrs. Joseph Friend, who was now President of the Louisiana Federation of Clubs, and Mrs. Friend made appointments for him to meet Miss Hill and Mrs. Reed and Governor Fuqua in Baton Rouge.

The interview with Governor Fuqua was very satisfactory to all. The Governor agreed to appoint a full Commission and to permit Mr. Ferguson, as representative of the

League of Library Commissions, to act in an advisory capacity in the employment of an Executive Secretary, who was to plan the demonstration and budget the funds. The Commission would be put in possession of \$15,000 a year for three years. The Commission appointed by the Governor comprised two of the original members, Miss Hill and Mrs. Reed, of Baton Rouge; Dr. G. P. Wyckoff of Tulane University, New Orleans; Miss Eleanor McMain of Kingsley House, New Orleans, and Mr. Forrest White, Superintendent of Schools of Calcasieu Parish. Mr. White's name was suggested by State Superintendent Harris.

The story of the work done by the Commission after the appointment of Miss Essae M. Culver as Executive Secretary, the correspondence that led up to her appointment, the changes in the Commission membership, and the increasing appropriations by the State is told in Miss Culver's biennial reports to the legislature and is a matter of record.

As I purposed in my first paragraph, I have tried to show how the seed was sown and slowly germinated; that unforeseen, unhoped-for elements were responsible for its growth which has been slow but strangely true to the direction given it by the wisdom of a few farsighted enthusiasts. Most of them have lived to see their vision a reality. I have not been able to name them all, as I have drawn my account mainly from memory, my own and that of others who helped in the foundation work, and memories are fallible after the passage of thirty years.

I apologize for possible omissions, secure in knowing that those who worked and are still working for this library ideal are not seeking credit for themselves but seek to serve their ideal toward its highest accomplishment: books for all the people and for everybody a love of books.

To Be Continued

Louisiana Purchase? Mais Oui; Books Purchase? Comme-ci Comme-ca

By

HELEN MAESTRI, *Librarian*
Francis T. Nicholls High School
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Today as we celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, librarians may be wondering about the libraries in 1803. Since they did not have to compete with radio and television, were they well patronized? Did the French and Spanish Colonials read for the most part only ephemeral material? What books did their children enjoy since the comics were unavailable?

Further speculation is useless as there were no public libraries in Louisiana in 1803. Only private ones existed. It was not until 1806 that the first subscription library, the New Orleans Library Society, was established. After twenty-four years of precarious existence, it died and was followed by other subscription libraries that suffered a similar fate.

Before we condemn our forefathers as uncultured, we must remember that in 1803 New Orleans was little more than a shipping point. Except for a few isolated trading posts along the Mississippi and Red Rivers, most of the area that now comprises the state of Louisiana was uninhabited. Only hunters and trappers penetrated into the wilderness.

We know also that the public library movement was begun later in the nineteenth century and certainly not by the gay Creoles. We have ample evidence that New Orleans then, as now (well! at any rate, before Ke-fauver), was a wide-open town. Drinking, dancing and gambling took most of the leisure time of the residents as well as of the many transients and visitors. We find in the local newspapers innumerable advertisements of balls, plays, concerts, pleasure gardens at the lake and on the levee, horse racing, lessons in fencing and the services of portrait-painters. But pathetically little mention is made of books in these periodicals.

In fact prior to 1808 there were no booksellers as such. "A French observer, in a work published in Paris in 1803, found in

New Orleans 'no booksellers, either, and for a good reason, that a bookseller would perish of hunger there in the midst of his books, unless these taught the fascinated reader the art of doubling his capital in a year's time.'"¹

This observation is a typical French overstatement, because books were sold occasionally in Louisiana. General importers and newspaper proprietors handled them as well as subscriptions to expensive sets and periodicals. Individuals could order books for themselves and some did. The most noteworthy example is John McDonogh, who paid in 1806 three hundred dollars for an order of books comprised of Robertson's *America*, Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, a translation of Juvenal, thirty-nine volumes of the British Classics and works by Gibbon, Pope, Dryden, Young, Cooper and Plutarch. "Books were sometimes disposed of by lotteries; 730 volumes, valued at \$750, were thus raffled off at \$2 per ticket, in 1816."²

The steep price of the chance was probably due to the small number of persons interested in owning books. According to Thomas Jefferson and Major Amos Stoddard there were few readers in Louisiana. The former told Congress on November 14, 1803, "Not more than half of the inhabitants are supposed to be able to read and write; of whom not more than 200, perhaps, are able to do it well. In general, the learning of the inhabitants does not extend beyond those two arts, though they seem to be endowed with a good natural genius, and an uncommon facility of learning whatever they undertake."³ Major Amos Stoddard, who

¹Roger Philip McCutcheon, "Books and Booksellers in New Orleans, 1730-1830," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, XX, 608.

²*Ibid.*, p. 615.

³*American State Papers, Miscellaneous*, I, 344ff.

took possession of Upper Louisiana for the United States in 1804, agrees with Jefferson. In his *Sketches Historical and Descriptive of Louisiana* he explains "The Creole French are at least a century behind the other civilized nations in the arts and sciences. Many of the most opulent planters along the Delta and Red Rivers cannot either read or write." He adds, however, that they were very interesting conversationalists.

What did these few literates read? An advertisement of Mercier and Company announced for sale some very modern novels, works relating to the French Revolution, travels and the exasperatingly vague *et cetera*. This information should not be surprising to librarians of today who have heavy demands for the latest fiction and books dealing with the second World War. The interest in works of travel was probably aroused by the early victories of Napoleon, who evidently was popular with the French Colonials, because Mercier and Co. also offered for sale in the same advertisement sabers "*soi-disant à la Bonaparte*." The Creoles probably took as much pride in these swords as their descendants today do in their buttons, entitled, "Moi, j'aime Ike!"

We presume that the "200 inhabitants who could read and write well" were perusing the works of the outstanding French authors of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and French translations of some of the classics that ushered in the approaching romantic period in literature. The inventories of plantations and the advertisements in the local newspapers reveal that the Creoles were purchasing *Manon Lescaut*, *Télémaque*, French editions of *Don Quixote* and *Robinson Crusoe*, books by Voltaire, Moliere, Marivaux, Rousseau, Mirabeau, Scarron, Le Sage, Fontanelle, Condorcet, Boileau, Crebillon, Corneille and French translations of Lucan and Epictetus.

The conspicuous lack of English authors and books on American subjects in the extensive list mentioned above is proof of the intense resentment that the Creoles felt toward their new neighbors. It was only after the cession of Louisiana to the United States that we find local newspapers being published in English, and British and American books being purchased. The Creoles fought

a spirited but losing battle for the preservation of their French language in Louisiana.

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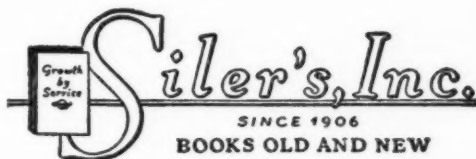
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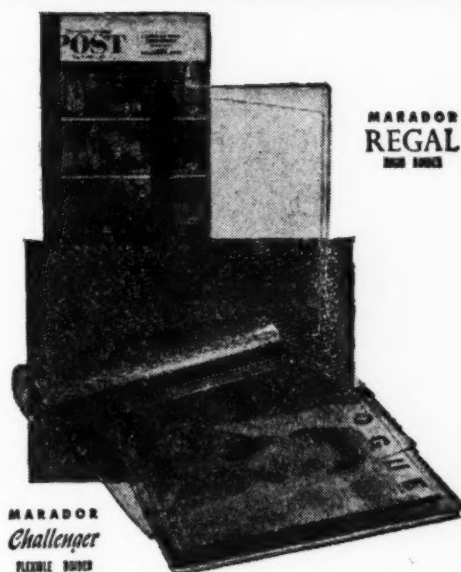
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